

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 3605

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, XZ

SUBJECT: MEETING OF NORDIC SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LEADERS

REF: COPENHAGEN 3191

SUMMARY. NORDIC SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY AND TRADE UNION LEADERS AT THEIR BIENNIAL MEETING IN COPENHAGEN DEC 21 REPORTEDLY AGREED TO WORK OUT A JOINT PROGRAM TO COUNTER THE EFFECTS IN SCANDINAVIA OF THE ENERGY CRISIS. IT WAS ALSO DECIDED TO ESTABLISH A SECRETARIAT TO COORDINATE THE GENERAL PROGRAMS AND EFFORTS OF THE NORDIC SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES. PARTY LEADERS MADE SHORT APPEARANCES AT AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN MEETING AND WERE BRIEFED ON THE PROSPECTS OF THE DANISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS IN THE FORTHCOMING ELECTION. END SUMMARY.

1. ACCORDING TO THE SOURCES THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN ABLE TO CONTACT DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON, THE MEETING OF THE NORDIC SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LEADERS WAS A SHORT ONE WITHOUT PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANT RESULTS. IT WAS ATTENDED BY PRIMIN PALME, STEN ANDERSSON, CONFIDENTIAL

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THAGE G. PETERSEN, AND LO CHAIRMAN GUNNAR NILSSON FROM

SWEDEN; PRIMIN BRATTELI, REIULF STEEN, RONALD BYE AND LO CHAIRMAN TOR ASPENGREN FROM NORWAY; PAAVO LIPPONEN, LARS LINDEMAN, RORA VIEMERI (SP?) AND SAK CHAIRMAN PEKKA OLIVIO FROM FINLAND; ANKER JORGENSEN, KJELD OLESEN, EJNAR HOVGAARD CHRISTIANSEN AND LO CHAIRMAN THOMAS NIELSEN FROM DENMARK. THERE WAS NO ICELANDIC PARTICIPATION. THE AGENDA CONSISTED OF ONLY TWO ITEMS; (A) THE CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN EACH OF THE COUNTRIES; AND (B) COOPERATION BETWEEN THE NORDIC SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE TRADE UNION MOVEMENTS.

2. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING THE MEETING HOWEVER, ANKER JORGENSEN ANNOUNCED THAT THE NORDIC LEADERS HAD DISCUSSED THE ALTERED SITUATION IN EUROPE CAUSED BY THE ENERGY CRISIS AND HAD AGREED TO DEVELOP A JOINT PROGRAM TO DEAL WITH THE SCANDINAVIAN ASPECTS OF IT. (COMMENT: EMBASSY SOURCES DID NOT ELABORATE ON THIS SUBJECT; THE JOINT PROGRAM COULD WELL BE ANOTHER ELEMENT IN THE CURRENT EFFORTS BEING MADE TO PERSUADE NORWAY TO SHARE ITS OIL-RELATED BENEFITS. SEE REFTEL.)

3. THE PRIMARY ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE MEETING APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN THE AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH A JOINT SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC SECRETARIAT. THE SECRETARIAT IS INTENDED TO COORDIANTE THE PERIODIC MEETINGS OF THE PARTY LEADERS AND TO FACILITATE THEIR REACHING COMMON POSITIONS IN THE NORDIC COUNCIL (WHERE THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS OPERATE AS A BLOC) AND IN THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL. AGREEMENT ON THIS STEP SURPRISED SOME DANISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS; THE PROSPECT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED FOR TWO OR THREE YEARS BUT HAS HITHERTO ALWASYS BEEN BLOCKED ON TWO COUNTS; FINANCING, AND THE RELUCTANCE OF THE FINNS TO ACCEPT SUCH CLOSE POLITICAL IDENTIFICATION WITH THEIR NORDIC BROTHER PARTIES. (WHAT CAUSED THE FINNISH CHANGE OF HEART IS UNCLEAR FROM THIS VANTAGE POINT.) WITH RESPECT TO THE PROBLEM OF FINANCING, AGREEMENT WAS REACHED THAT NORDIC TRADE UNION FEDERATIONS WOULD PARTIALLY SUBSIDIZE THE SECRETARIAT. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE NEW ORGANI-
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ZATION WILL BE ESTABLISHED ON APPROXIMATELY THE SAME SCALE AS THE NORDIC TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (NTUC) SECRETARIAT IN STOCKHOLM, AND THAT THE TWO SECRETARIATS WILL WORK CLOSELY TOGETHER. THE NEW SECRETARIAT WILL PROBABLY BE LOCATED IN STOCKHOLM, IN SUCH CASE, A NON-SWEDE WILL BE SELECTED AS DIRECTOR. THE ACTUAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SECRETARIAT IS NOT EXPECTED BEFORE 1976.

4. THE FORTHCOMING DANISH ELECTION WAS ANOTHER MAJOR ITEM IN THE POLITICAL TALKS, WITH THE FINNS IN PARTICULAR WISHING TO KNOW WHY DANISH SOCIAL DEMOCRACY HAD COME ON SUCH HARD TIMES RECENTLY. ANKER JORGENSEN REPORTEDLY PRESENTED A THOROUGH EXPOSITION OF THE DANISH PARTY'S CURRENT PROBLEMS AND ITS PROSPECTS.

5. IN THE MORNING OF DEC 21 PALME AND BRATTELI MADE SHORT APPEARANCES AT A GATHERING OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY FAITHFUL IN COPENHAGEN'S MOST IMPORTANT LABOR DISTRICT.
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